WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 12 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | APRIL 2002

Rants In Their Pants

Challenging Olympia's Development Regime in the Mayday Movement

Steve Hughes

Over the past twenty-five years the Westside of Olympia has been turned into a maze of parking lots and congested streets. For the last two years, however, new forms of organizing and resistance (and old ones too) have visibly emerged in opposition to the Westside development model. Much of this activity is being catalyzed by the events taking place in and around Olympia's Mayday celebrations.

Knowing The Terrain

As the Westside has grown the city of Olympia has cultivated a tax farm in its many so-called "destination shopping centers." In a state and community heavily dependent on sales tax revenue for want of other more progressive tax structures, these big box stores have filled municipal coffers with money to pay for city projects, to widen roads, and, of course, to pay for more sprawling development. Top Foods, Safeway, Target, Westfield Shoppingtown, The Old Navy Complex, The Barnes and Noble Complex, and the plethora of office supply stores one can find on the Westside -- all generate big bucks for the city.

Let's look at one example. Westfield Shoppingtown is an Australian-based corporation which manages shopping malls in five different countries. According to Westfield's website their strength as a company is that they create brand name recognition which consumers associate with a particular shopping experience. Their size and practice of "clustering" (i.e. saturating select consumer markets such as the Puget Sound region) with their facilities allows them to out-compete other shopping centers. In Olympia Westfield plans to expand their facilities and they are already buying out other malls in the Seattle area.

Added to Westfield's matrix of expansion and influence is their effort to shape local policy making. Having learned their lesson in Australia where citizen groups de-railed efforts to lengthen the shopping day (In Australia, like many countries, stores are not allowed to stay open 24 hours a day, as this clearly hurts small businesses who can't afford to remain open during off-peak hours.) Westfield determined a need to win over their host communities with greater PR efforts and political involvement. Believe it or not, this is the stuff they talk about in their board meetings. (You can read it on the internet.)

In this past election cycle, the Mall's manager, Jim Boyde, with the support of the business and development community, ran for City Council. Boyde has lived in Olympia for all of two years, but in that time he has joined every business association, charitable organization, and city advisory committee he can lay his hands on. As a result, he narrowly lost to Matthew Green. Having run for city council myself, I can tell you that Jim Boyde is a lot more knowledgeable about city politics than he was before he ran. Jim Boyde is also a lot more well known than before he ran. With this combination, developing a strong PR platform for Westfield Shoppingtown will be a much easier task.

Next Stop: Downtown

One of the great ironies surrounding the debate over downtown "revitaliza-

(Continued page 7)

The Case of the Disappearing Bus Stop

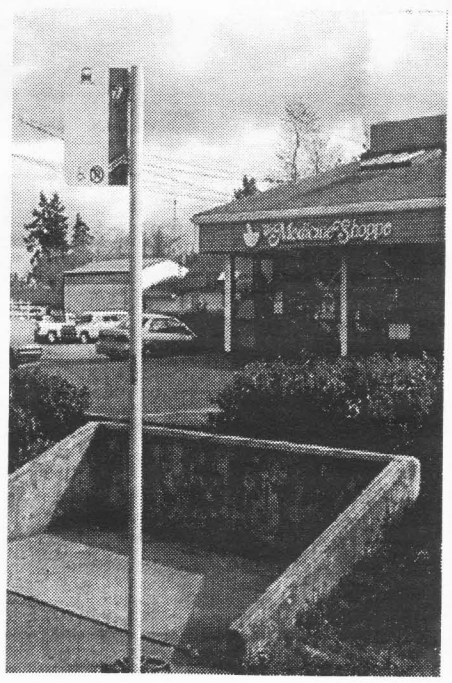
Sarah Light

What happened to the covered bus shelter at Harrison and Division, on the west-side of Olympia? Why was it removed?

First, let me tell you how important that bus shelter was. It served two active bus routes, 41 and 48. Gave folks a much needed place to sit and also shelter from weather. Shelter from rain and wind and snow. I myself live here on the west-side and I used that shelter nearly daily. That shelter was often THE reason I could get around, ride the bus, get out of the house. As a woman dealing with physical challenges, knowing that I had a place to sit down after walking a few blocks made everything possible. No more.

That bus shelter served so many of us. Vital part of our bus transportation system, a system that needs to be encouraged and supported, not chipped away at.

So. I emailed Intercity Transit and asked them what was up with the disappearing bus stop. Dave Schwagler, the Facilities Supervisor, courteously and professionally answered my questions. Why has the bus shelter been removed? The man to talk to is Rich DeGarmo at The Medicine Shoppe. His phone number is #943-7335. I myself have not yet been able to talk to Rich. I fear that I won't be able to remain courteous and calm. The Medicine Shoppe has gotten my business for years and years. The news that Rich is behind the removal of a much needed bus shelter makes me a not so happy camper.



I encourage folks who are concerned to give Mr. DeGarmo a call and ask just why pressure was applied to disappear that bus stop. My guess is that there are available solutions for any true problems he might have had with customers of I.T. Do folks come into The Medicine Shoppe and ask to use a restroom, do they ask for bus change? A simple sign on the front door would solve that problem. Is litter round the stop sometimes out of hand? I.T. will make added site visits and deal with that easily. How can a simple, very useful, much needed bus shelter be the enemy? Are we who ride the bus now the enemy?

Contact Info:

Rich DeGarmo, The Medicine Shoppe
1907 West Harrison
Olympia, Wa. 98502
360 943-7335

Dave Schwagler
Facility Supervisor, Intercity Transit
Ph. 360 705-5858
FAX 360 786-5074
dschwagler@intercitytransit.com

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign

Cleaning Up The City's Act

In the fall of 2000 a group of community members made up of students, local activists, union members and faith groups began meeting to address the issue of sweatshops in the garment industry. This community group has taken the name, South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign.

The issue of garment workers who work under repressive management, unsafe working conditions, and less than living wages has been well documented. The mission of the SSCCC is take action on a local level to address these abuses which occur on a global level.

To this end, on December 18, 2001, the SSCCC presented to the Olympia City Council a proposed resolution which would require the City to purchase items of apparel from responsible and ethical contractors whenever possible. A full copy of the proposed resolution and supporting documentation is enclosed for your review.

The SSCCC respectfully requests your support of this resolution by completing and returning the enclosed statement of endorsement. The olympia City Council will be considering further action on this Resolution at their April 24 Budget Committee meeting. Anyone interested in helping out can do so by taking the following steps:

Use this article to help formulate a Cover Letter and Statement of Endorsement. For example, if you are sending this information from a local organization the cover letter could say: (Name of organization) after reviewing the Resolution Establishing Guidelines to Address the Purchase of Items of Apparel, Textile, and Related Products from Responsible and Ethical Contractors urges the Olympia City Council to enact the Resolution at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, should you wish to become more involved in this effort, we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Traditions Fair Trade, 300 5th Ave SW, Olympia. There is much work to be accomplished and new members are always welcome. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact SSCCC members Dick

(Continued page 9)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Tristan Baurick	Jerome Johnson
Dave Campbell	Margaret Love
Chelsea Chase	Sandy Mayes
Sebastian Chase	Hali Panneton
Tom Chenhall	Jeff Sowers
Renee Cruickshank	Sylvia Smith
Megan Davis	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Apr. 19th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Apr. 22nd
6:30pm at Olympia Downtown Library

Everyone Welcome!

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Calling All Musicians, Dancers, Artists and Folks With No Talents At All:

Come together with Community Members to Create **Dove Costumes** for this year's **Procession of the Species**.

Work together to represent the whole range of people in the area who oppose expansion of the war.

How to get involved:

*Come to work parties at the Procession Studio: Saturdays anytime between 10 am and 2 pm; Thursdays anytime between 6 pm and 9pm

*Attend organizing meetings: Fridays @ noon, Traditions Café.

*Contact 753-7093 and let us know you are interested in walking with us (even if you want to participate but don't have time to construct a costume) We need your ideas! Current ideas for additional creations include papier mache globes and batik earth flags.

Gender Variant Health

Sunday, April 14th 2-4:30pm
First Methodist Church

PFLAG welcomes the Gender Variant Health Project. Parents, Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bixexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Info at 866-0511 and http://home.attbi.com/~pflag-olympia/

Global Greens Gathering Video on EarthDay

In April 2001, 800 Greens from 70 countries met in Canberra, Australia for the first ever gathering of Global Greens. This 60-minute video highlights that event in all it's living color. Out of that conference came the first Global Green Charter. Delegates from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America discuss and debate the issues, then drum and dance the night away. Join us for this anniversay showing at **Traditions Cafe on EarthDay, April 21st at 7pm.** Sponsored by the South Sound Greens and the Green Party of Washington State.

Dance O' Dance

Dance O' Dance is now being taped LIVE on the 1st Friday of the month. It's still all-ages, all genders, smoke & alcohol free, featuring independent NW artists. Special arrangements can be made to showcase a prepared dance of any style. * 943-5440 * April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th

April 20th events for Global Justice in Seattle!

If you don't know, now ya know! April 20th will have events and actions against the IMF/WB, the upcoming G8 meeting in Alberta, a Reclaim the Streets party with a concert, towards debt relief, against corporate monoculture, towards freedom and peace for all the world, live bands!, clowns (yes really!), counterculture businesspeople, against colonialism, peace hippies, ultra radicals, lefty moderates, ONE BIG GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE...all on one day!

Please check out the following website so you familiarize yourself with what is going on: www.seattleacc.cjb.net

We DO want to work with groups who are not necessarily ideologically aligned with the ACC, but who wish to abolish/reform the IMF/WB. We feel at this time in struggle, unity is our strength.

Contact Info:
yellowblock@riseup.net
1(866)841-9140 x4918

Weekly peace vigils

PEACE VIGIL, noon to 1 p.m. in NW corner of Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way) EVERY WEDNESDAY. We provide signs or you may bring your own. Please come for all or part of the hour to witness for peace and nonviolence. Sponsor: Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation Info: 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

PEACE VIGIL, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on 4th Ave near the fountain EVERY FRIDAY. Our demeanor and signs are friendly and positive, urging lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq and promoting peace and human rights in light

(Continued page 11)

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APRIL 2002

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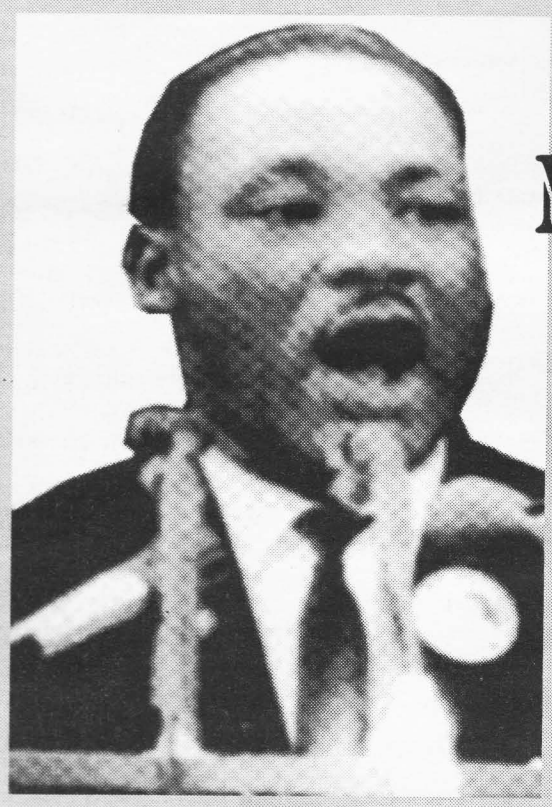

"Poverty is a form of violence. It is a result of inequality rather than a proof of inequality... The existence of poverty in the United States should not be accepted as a necessary evil or an insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency measures. It is a matter of will and priorities, not a matter of resources."

MUSSOLINI

-- OR --

MLK

?

Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini in defining **Fascism** said that the role of government is to do what business and the corporation demand. His form of government was to eliminate democratic representation in policies and turn the control of the economy over to business leaders.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
I swear to uphold and defend the Constitutions of the U.S. and Washington -- **Oath taken by Olympia City Councilmembers**	**1** **2001**: US spy plane/ Chinese jet collide over South China Sea; Chinese pilot/plane are lost **2001**: Senate passes bill banning "soft money"	**2** **2001**: Environmentalists protest Bush's environmental policies **2001**: Bush demands the release of spy plane crew of 24	**3** **2001**: US Labor Dept reports fed. contractors pay female workers 72 cents to male's dollar **2001**: BPA to save water for power not fish	**4** **2001**: Bush's $1.6 trillion tax cut trimmed $450 billion by Senate **2001**: Colin Powell sends US regrets for death of pilot to China	**5** **1999**: Clinton vows to punish the Serb military mercilessly **2001**: China replies that regrets are not good enough; wants apology	**6** **2001**: Students protest proposed tuition increases at the WA state capitol steps **2001**: Volcano off Oregon coast erupts
7 **1919**- 160,000 Belgium women sign petition demanding vote **1998** - Study reports women are best able to cope with pain	**8** **1908**: Roosevelt requires equal RR accommodations for African-americans **1998**: RJR wont support nat'l tobacco settlement	**9** **1866**: Civil Rights Bill passes over Pres. Johnson's veto **2001**: American Airlines closes deal to purchase TWA	**10** **1919**: Universal suffrage est. in Belgium **1945**: Buchenwald is liberated by Alies **1998**: Accord is signed in Northern Ireland	**11** **2001**: Slade Gorton joins Preston, Gates and Ellis LLP law firm in Seattle; he plans to work on transportation/ environmental policy	**12** **2001**: China releases the 24 crew members of the downed US spy plane **2001**: WA state Health Dept warns of mercury in tuna, and other fish	**13** **1999**: Kevorkian sentenced 10 to 25 years **2001**: WA St employees vote to strike in of protest pay, increase of insurance premiums
14 **1906**: OH: 3,000 cheer as 2 African-americans are burned to death **1995**: 300 at Sylvester Park support 2 Olympia High teens attacked 4/6	**15** **1999**: Social-services activists worry that all other pieces of social services will be forgotten after teachers get their raise	**16** **1902**: Colombia: US troops to protect US property in civil war **2001**: No. of bankruptcy filings rose 20% in 1st 3 months of 2001	**17** **1999**: NATO's commander states "if he doesn't change policies, we're going to destroy ...those things Pres. Milosevic values."	**18** **1996**: Israeli shells meant for Hezbollah UN shelter for refugees in Lebanon killing 75 **2001**: 300 state employees walk off the job	**19** **2001**: 1,800 WA state workers on picket line **2001**: Quebec finishes concrete barricades to keep protesters from Summit of Americas	**20** **2001**: State Dept: will reject Kyoto global warming treaty **2001**: Protesters clash w/ police in Quebec, break through barriors
21 **2001**: 1500 state workers rally in Olympia **2001**: Quebec: Summit bars Cuba w/ "democracy clause"; 3,000 protest in Blaine, WA	**22** **2001**: S Robson Walton is world's richest **2001**: CIA admits it mistook missionaries' plane for a drug smuggling operation	**23** **1998**: WA State Supreme Court rules that children need not have known their actions were illegal as a condition for prosecution	**24** **1868**: Boston U sit-in demands Black studies **2001**: Supreme Court rules police can arrest and handcuff people for minor traffic offenses	**25** **2001**: Kerrey involved in Vietnamese deaths **2001**: Zach Mandeville, Black Hills honors student, sits out WASL in protest	**26** **2001**: Shareholders dissolve Memorial Clinic **2001**: NW Power Planning Council recommends spilling water from dams to help fish	**27** **1999**: Pentagon will call up 33,000+ to bolster Balkan forces: NATO again bombs Yugoslavia's ruling party headquarter
28 **1997**: Supreme Court shields cities and counties from being forced to pay damages in federal court for most acts of police brutalit	**29** **1997**: Thurston County Superior Court Judge allows cherry growers to continue housing migrant farm workers in tents	**30** **1997**: Judge blocks punishment of Cal doctors for med marijuana **2001**: Boeing's Condit says Seattle needs to be more business friendly				

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of a religion, or prohibiting the free excercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and topetition the government for a redress of grievances.

-- Bill of Rights, Constitution of the United States of America

UP FRONT

An Open Letter to Sen. Don Benton

Jerome Johnson

Dear Senator Benton,

First, allow me to thank you for some much-needed fun and amusement. When I picked up last Wednesday's paper and read about the "loss" of the Senate Locker Room, I laughed so hard that tears came to my eyes and I nearly fell out of my easy chair. As one of your employers I don't mean to sound harsh, but such indignation made me double-check to see if I was reading about a senator in the right Washington. For a minute there I thought you may have confused our local Senate with the one in D.C., where such perks as private Senate dining rooms have become the norm for my other employees, Sens. Murray and Cantwell.

Well, I did read the article, and fortunately both of us are in the right place. (I like the climate here better anyway).

Now, don't get me wrong. I've been working for money all my life, since I was 12 years old in 1973 and I'm still working (thank God and my boss). Believe me, I know the importance of having a good working environment—why, I didn't even get a lunch break—let alone a private dining room— until the early 1990s, when I worked at TESC. I don't have a private dining room in my current job, but that's okay. Our chef is better than yours and I eat in my nice quiet office. I'm sure your Senate office is all right—if not, let me know. I care about my employees—even part-time employees like you & the other legislators—and it'd be a pity if your office wasn't as nice as mine (do you have cable TV yet?)

Your colleague, Senator Hargrove, and several others also seem a bit excercised over this. I'm glad you were able to reach a bipartisan consensus, something that comes so rarely in our evenly-party-balanced Capitol. According to the "Olympian", y'all commented on the long hours you work and your desire for a "separate and quiet place to turn to for a little peace and quiet in the middle of a hectic day." Again, Senator, I have empathy for you. I know what it's like to work 12+ hour shifts—including the occasional danger and the commute to/from Seattle. Hell, when I had day shift, often I was so busy that I hardly had time to use the restroom, let alone have lunch. Let me assure you, Sen. Hargrove and every legislator who shares your views that I and many other of your employers around the state understand how important it is to have a nice quiet lunch break. Even those of us who have to "brown bag it", like many state workers who can't afford to buy lunch even if they have access to a private dining room, due to the limits on pay and the hiring freezes your budget mandates for state workers.

I don't have a private dining room in my current job, but that's okay. Our chef is better than yours and I eat in my nice quiet office. I'm sure your Senate office is all right—if not, let me know.

You commented on the skill of your chefs, Jean & Kerri. In this uncertain economic time, I'm just as worried about their jobs as you are. Fear thee not, sir—even if they don't find a job with your colleagues in the House, I'm sure they won't have a problem finding a job somewhere, if they get bored with their restaurant. With your letter of recommendation plus 33 signatures from fellow Senators, they'll be fine. I just hope that wherever they end up, they have good lunch breaks and the time to enjoy them—but who can say? You know how the private sector is.

And speaking of restaurants, let me show you the way out of your terrible dilemma. Even if the Locker Room closes, you can always cruise out to their restaurant in Tumwater, or ask them to cater. I know that's pricey and you have to watch your money like all the other state workers, but maybe the 34 of you can get together and work something out.

If that doesn't work—believe me, I know about the time constraints a 12+ hour day can put on a person—you're still all right. You may not know this, working so diligently as you do on the state business we citizens employ you to do at your fervent request (election time), but there are several excellent restaurants in downtown Olympia that have all the peace, quiet, privacy and quality food we all enjoy so much. Our local restauranteurs would be glad to host you and your party, I'm sure, since they're still recovering from the earthquake and would love your business. I won't mind if you send one of your pages or another staffer to run down and choose one that would be right for you, some just a brief walk down the hill. I would name some but this ain't ad space, plus I wouldn't want to rob you of the joy of discovering downtown Olympia. And you'd be stimulating the local economy—a cherished GOP idea, so I'm told.

Hang in there, Senator. I know these jobs we choose to do can be tough. If you or any of our other employees have workplace issues, please let us know.

Oh, one more thing. I can't speak for Sen. Hargrove, but some of the best times of my life were had in junior high. But then, I guess he didn't go to my school.

Warmest regards,
Jerome

* In Afghanistan, Canadian battalions, German battalions and a British regiment reinforce US forces.
* In Zimbabwe, Pres. Robert Mugabe has stolen an election.
* In Cleveland, Issac Hayes makes a grand entrance into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
* And in Olympia, the legendary John Trudell rocks the house for KAOS. Total Liberation Project

Homeland Security— If We Don't, They Will!

by Tucker Estron

The latest piece of scariness to come out of Attorney General John Ashcroft (besides his terribly overwrought musical number "Let the Eagle Soar") is the concept of Homeland Security patrols. The way it's supposed to work is this: Neighborhood watch programs already in existence will report any suspicious activity suggestive of terrorism to the FBI. The obvious problem here is that such "suspicious activity" could include leafleting, community activism, or even something as innocent as whistling. Yes, whistling. In a *Washington Post* article about a typical night for Washington D.C.'s "Homeland Security Corps," staff reporters Darragh Johnson and David A. Fahrenthold write,

"When the group spied a young man, whistling, they stopped for a better look. Then the man disappeared.

'I think we drove him out of the neighborhood,' someone said."

Later in the same article, the reporters write that the National Neighborhood Watch Program has been selling large, rectangular street signs saying: "We Support Homeland Security. All suspicious persons and activities are immediately reported to our Law Enforcement Agency." One of the biggest orders for these signs was recently sent out to the police department right here in Olympia, and that is where you come in—yes, *you*!

You see, what we as progressives and liberals need to do is organize our own Neighborhood Watch. Call it OlyWAtch, something non-threatening and catchy. Get officially recognized as one of the Homeland Security teams—and then encourage everybody who might otherwise be victimized by Homeland Security squads to join. If we get in on the ground floor of this, we will have a say in the rules. We'll be the ones who decide what does and does not constitute "suspicious activity." We'll also be there to watch the watchers, and make sure they don't engage in racial profiling.

If we don't join these "terrorism watch" groups, someone else will—and I guarantee they will not have our interests at heart. I urge you to call everybody you know who might be at risk of being profiled by Homeland Security groups and organize with them to form OlyWAtch. We have to take action before somebody else does! For more information, including meeting information, please call 754-6233.

Tucker Estron is the secret identity of some local housewife. She runs a website at http://www.geocities.com/tuckerestron.

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BOOK REVIEW

Globalization from Below: The Power of Solidarity

David Zink

by Jeremy Brecher, Tim Costello, and Brendan Smith. **South End Press,** ***(2000), 164p***

This book draws on the experience of three veteran activists. Jeremy Brecher is the author of several books on labor and social movements, including the labor classic, *Strike!*. Tim Costello has been a truck driver, workplace organizer, and union representative, and is currently director of the Massachusetts Campaign on Contingency Work. Brendan Smith is a senior labor leader and was a senior legislative aide to Representative Bernie Sanders of Vermont, specializing in economics, international labor rights, child labor, and related issues. The three co-produced the book & video *Global Village of Global Pillage?*

The message of *Globalization from Below* is that, whether we like it or not, the world is becoming more closely knit together. Through increasing trade and communications, global economic integration is growing. But "Globalization in Whose Interest ?" is still very much an open question.

What sort of global village would you choose to live in?

A dog-eat-dog, uncaring shanty-town run by the most powerful thugs, according to what is most profitable for the trans-national corporations?

Or

One run on democratic, cooperative principles where justice and environmental sustainability are priorities?

The advocates of corporate globalism tell us that "There is No Alternative" - there ain't no stopping it now. The authors of this book counter that people can indeed exercise power over a corporate-driven, top-down globalization -- but only by means of a solidarity that crosses over boundaries of nations and narrow, special interests.

Globalization – in one form or another - is both irreversible, and, in its present form – "globalization from above", or corporate globalism (global capitalism) – is unsustainable. World domination by an alliance of trans-national corporate tyrants is damaging the planetary life-support system. Decisions are made according to what is most profitable, based on quarterly corporate financial reports. It's driven by short-term profit, not long-term considerations. There is intense global competition to lower labor, environmental, and social costs; decisions regarding where to set up operations are determined by where the lowest, or unenforced, environmental and labor standards can be found. Brecher coined the phrase that perhaps best describes this process: It's a "global race to the bottom".

What is being globalized under global capitalism is not Germany's high rate of unionization, 35-hour work week, liberal vacations and other benefits. Instead, what is becoming standardized are third world working conditions, long hours, low wages, and minimal benefits. Under global capitalism, the workers of the world are thrown into one big, common pool, forced to compete in an all-against-all struggle. Under corporate globalization, standards and practices are being "normalized downward".

Giving credit where it's due, Brecher & company discuss some of the wonders that global capitalism has brought to our world. These include :

* A vast increase in global poverty and urbanization, both within countries and worldwide: In the first year of NAFTA, there was a net loss of thousands of U.S. jobs to south of the Rio Grande. In Mexico, wages declined 40-50%, while the cost of living rose by 80%.
* Growing inequality: Selling off publicly owned schools, hospitals, power and water-supply systems, etc. to private investors has concentrated wealth even more into a few hands, forcing the public to pay even more for its needs.
* Financial volatility – as a result of the growing mobility of capital, corporations can increasingly dictate policy to governments, backed by the threat that they can easily and quickly relocate, should a government create an "unfavorable business climate" by having the audacity to hold them responsible for environmental or social damage.
* Degradation of Democracy – globalization has both greatly increased the power of global corporations relative to local, state, and national government's power and reduced the power of citizens to participate in decisions that affect them.
* Environmental Destruction – Countries are forced to compete for investment by lowering environmental protections in an ecological race to the bottom. Growing poverty leads to desperate overharvesting of natural resources.

Globalization from Above is generating worldwide resistance. From diverse origins, groups with differing, yet complementary agendas are finding that they are up against the same global corporations. Is this confluence a movement, or is it just a collection of separate movements? Perhaps it can best be described as a movement in the early stages of construction. While the critique of global corporatism is well developed, the emergence of a popular alternative vision is only in its early stages.

The anti-World Trade Organization (WTO) movement is, contrary to its detractors, not a pack of reactionary isolationists, but an internationally minded and globally linked coalition. This was in evidence in such actions as the November, 1999 "Battle of Seattle", in which contingents from around the Pacific Rim and Europe took part. "Globalization from below" works to restore the democracy, diversity, and ecological balance that corporate globalization – from above – is destroying.

Advances in communication technology – e-mail, FAX, the internet, etc. -- forcefully pose the need for the forces for democracy and the environment to communicate and coordinate trans-nationally, using whatever tools that may be available.

The authors describe something they call the "Lilliput Strategy", and show some examples of how and where this strategy has been successfully employed. Lilliput was an island, populated by a race of tiny people that Gulliver stumbled across in his travels. Individually, none of the Lilliputians were big enough or strong enough to subdue Gulliver, but through team-work were able to keep this "giant" from wrecking their home by binding him up with hundreds of threads.

By removing, or easing, federal regulations, this fake "local empowerment" actually amounts to putting local communities at the mercy of powerful corporations and financiers

The "giants" of corporate globalization include the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the WTO, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Under the auspices of these powerful institutions, trans-national corporations have usurped power that rightfully belongs to people and their representatives in government. The challenge for people is to establish greater control over their economic lives by establishing greater control over global capital. To do so requires building popular alternatives to corporate power at all levels, from local to global. The empowerment of local communities requires a degree of regulation at higher levels.

National and international regulation that protects minimum standards against corporate demands actually strengthens, rather than undermines the ability of people in local communities to control their own lives. This is essential if the forces of globalization are to be tamed. International agreements that reduce the release of gases that destroy the ozone layer and produce global warming can protect local communities against environmental destruction, for example.

Most would agree that "Local Empowerment" is something desirable. But the term means different things to different people. Newt Gingrich, conservative ex-speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, campaigned to eliminate federal regulations that "interfered" with states and local governments. The corporate goal is to "get government off the back of business". The corporate agenda, usually hidden, but sometimes visible, includes weakening or getting rid of regulation and oversight that:

* establishes minimum wages and labor standards,
* preserves the environment,
* reduces poverty, and
* protects the rights of labor and women.

By removing, or easing, federal regulations, this fake "local empowerment" actually amounts to putting local communities at the mercy of powerful corporations and financiers, and pitting them against each other.

Globalization from Below is a handbook written by and for activists. A discussion of reasons why popular movements can fail, including schism (splits), sectarian disruption, co-optation, use of "wedge issues" to divide and defeat movements, leadership domination, and fading out, provides practical information on what to prepare ourselves for. The section on "What to Do When the Empire Strikes Back" especially merits study.

The book also contains a glossary of terms and a list of commonly encountered acronyms related to these issues.

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A Brief History of May Day

Eric Chase, Olympia IWW

Most people living in the United States know little about the International Workers' Day of May Day. For many others there is an assumption that it is a holiday celebrated in state communist countries like Cuba or the former Soviet Union. Most Americans don't realize that May Day has its origins here in this country and is as "American" as baseball and apple pie.

In the late nineteenth century, the working class was in constant struggle to gain the 8 hour work day. Working conditions were severe and it was quite common to work 10 to 16 hour days in unsafe conditions. Death and injury were commonplace at many work places and inspired such books as Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" and Jack London's "The Iron Heel". As early as the 1860's, working people agitated to shorten the workday without a cut in pay, but it wasn't until the late 1880's that organized labor was able to garner enough strength to declare the 8 hour workday. This proclamation was without consent of employers, yet demanded by many of the working class.

Many people turned to the ideas of socialism with its working class control over the production and distribution of all goods and services instead of the capitalist system which had proven time and time again to be in the hands of the ruling elite that would trade worker's lives for profit.

With thousands of men, women and children dying needlessly every year in the workplace, with life expectancy as low as their early twenties in some industries and with no hopes of rising out of destitution except by death, clearly a class war was being waged against the majority of the population by those whose primary motivation was profit.

A variety of socialist organizations sprung up throughout the later half of the 19th century comprising everything from political parties to choir groups. In fact many socialists were elected into governmental office by their constituency. But again, many of these socialists were ham-strung by the political process that was evidently in the hands of big business and the Democrat/Republican controlled political machine. Tens of thousands of socialists broke ranks from their parties, rebuffed the entire political process which was seen as nothing more than protecting the propertied classes, and created anarchist groups throughout the country.

The sacrifices of so many people cannot be forgotten or we will end up fighting for those same gains all over again as we fight the trend to build more sweatshops and create more "Free Trade Zones" where labor and environmental rights are rendered unapplicable in efforts to maximize profits.

Literally thousands of working people embraced the ideas of anarchism with its emphasis on no hierarchical structures, no government, worker controlled industry and direct action instead of the political process. It is improper to say that labor unions were "taken over" by anarchists and socialists, but rather anarchists and socialist were the labor unions.

At its national convention in Chicago, held in 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (which later became the American Federation of Labor), proclaimed that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886." The following year, the FOTLU, backed by many Knights of Labor locals, reiterated their proclamation stating that it would be supported by strikes and demonstrations. At first, most radicals and anarchists regarded this demand as too reformist, failing to strike "at the root of the evil".

A year before the Haymarket Massacre, Samuel Fielden pointed out in the anarchist newspaper, "The Alarm", that "whether a man works eight hours a day or ten hours a day, he is still a slave." Regardless of the attitudes of many of the anarchists, an estimated quarter million workers in the Chicago area became directly involved in the crusade to uphold the eight hour work day, including the Trades and Labor Assembly, the Socialistic Labor Party and local Knights of Labor.

As more and more of the workforce mobilized against the employers, these radicals conceded to fight for the 8 hour day, realizing that "the tide of opinion and determination of most wage workers was set in this direction". With the involvement of the anarchists, there seemed to be an infusion of greater issues than the 8 hour day. There grew a sense of a greater social revolution beyond the more immediate gains of shortened hours, but a drastic change in the economic structure of capitalism.

In a proclamation printed just before May 1st, 1886, one publisher appealed to working people with this plea: "MAKE YOUR DEMAND FOR EIGHT HOURS with weapons in your hands to meet the capitalistic bloodhounds - police and militia - in proper manner."

Not surprisingly the entire city was prepared for mass bloodshed, reminiscent of the railroad strike a decade earlier when police and soldiers gunned down hundreds of striking workers. On May 1st, 1886, more than 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses across the United States walked off their jobs in the first May Day celebration in history. In Chicago, the epicenter for the 8 hour day agitators, 40,000 went out on strike with the anarchists in the forefront of the public's eye. With their fiery speeches and revolutionary ideology of direct action, they became respected by the working people and despised by the capitalists. The names of many of the anarchists, such as; Albert Parsons, Johann Most, August Spies and Louis Lingg became household words in Chicago and throughout the country.

Parades, bands and tens of thousands of demonstrators in the streets exemplified the workers' strength and unity, yet didn't become violent as the newspapers and authorities predicted.

More and more workers continued to walk off their jobs until the numbers swelled to nearly 100,000, yet peace prevailed. It was not until two days later, May 3rd, 1886, that violence broke out at the McCormick Reaper Works between police and strikers. For six months, armed Pinkerton agents and the police beat locked out steelworkers as they picketed. Most of these workers belonged the "anarchist dominated" Metal Workers' Union.

During a speech near the McCormick plant, some two hundred demonstrators joined the steelworkers on the picket line. Police clubs escalated into rock throwing by the strikers which the police responded to with gunfire. At least two strikers were killed and an unknown number were wounded.

Full of rage, a public meeting was called by some of the anarchists for the following day in Haymarket Square to discuss the police brutality. Due to bad weather and short notice, only about 3000 of the tens of thousands of people showed up from the day before. This affair included families with children as well as the mayor and his family. Later, the mayor would testify that the crowd remained calm and orderly and that speaker August Spies made "no suggestion... for immediate use of force or violence toward any person..."

As the speech wound down, two detectives rushed to the main body of police, reporting that a speaker was using inflammatory language, inciting the police to march on the speakers' wagon. As the police began to disperse the already thinning crowd, a bomb was thrown into the police ranks. No one knows who threw the bomb and accusations varied from blaming one of the anarchists, to an agent provocateur working for the police.

Enraged, the police fired into the crowd. The exact number of civilians killed or wounded was never determined, but an estimate of civilian casualties was about seven or eight and up to forty wounded. One officer died immediately and another seven died in the following weeks. Later evidence indicated that only one of the police deaths could be attributed to the bomb and that all the other police fatalities had or could have had been due to their own indiscriminate gun fire. Aside from the bomb thrower, who was never identified, it was the police, not the anarchists, who perpetrated the violence.

Eight anarchists, Albert Parsons, August Spies, Samuel Fielden, Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab, George Engel, Adolph Fischer and Louis Lingg were arrested and convicted of murder, though only three were even present at Haymarket and they were in full view of all. The jury in their trial was comprised of business leaders in a gross mockery of justice similar to the Sacco Vanzetti case thirty years later, or the trials of AIM and Black Panther members in the seventies. On November 11th, 1887, after many failed appeals, Parsons, Spies, Engel and Fisher were hung to death. Louis Lingg, in his final protest of the state's claim of authority and punishment, took his own life the night before with an explosive device in his mouth.

The remaining organizers, Fielden, Neebe and Schwab were pardoned six years later by Governor Altgeld, who publicly lambasted the judge on a travesty of justice. Immediately after the Haymarket Massacre, big business and government conducted what some say was the very first "Red Scare" in this country. Spun by mainstream media, anarchism became synonymous with bomb throwing and socialism became unAmerican. The common image of an anarchist became a bearded, eastern European immigrant with a bomb in one hand and a dagger in the other.

Today we see tens of thousands of activists embracing the ideals of the Haymarket Martyrs and those who established May Day as an International Workers' Day. Ironically, May Day is an official holiday in 67 countries and unofficially celebrated in many more, but rarely is it recognized in this country where it began.

Over one hundred years have passed since that first May Day. In the earlier part of the 20th century, the US government tried to curb the celebration and further wipe it from the public's memory by establishing "Law and Order Day" on May 1st. We can draw many parallels between the events of 1886 and today. We still have locked out union workers struggling for justice. We still have voices of freedom behind bars as in the cases of Mumia Abu Jamal and Leonard Peltier. We still had the ability

(continued next page)

Mayday Action Committee

Please join the Mayday Action Committee as we work to coordinate this year's pre-Mayday festival and May 1st activities. Meetings are every Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM at Rise and Shine Cafe (next to the Westside Co-op.) There are many working groups to get involved with, or you can form your own. Everyone is welcome!

What is the Mayday Action Committee (MAC)?

"MAC creates a forum in the community for citizens to coordinate decentralized events leading up to and including the Mayday celebration. "MAC's goals include:

—creating community solidarity,
—raising awareness of Mayday's working class and pagan history,
—facilitating educational dialogues within the community and supporting efforts to overcome oppression, and
—Envisioning alternative economic/social possibilities while empowering the community to think critically and transform our surroundings

MAC invites you and your organization to get active and:

—create and celebrate your own vision of Mayday,
—affect local issues with global parallels, andeducate and inspire your community to think critically and act creatively."

Go to the OlyNetwork webpage >www.olynetwork.org< to learn more.

(Rants, continued)

tion" is that the capital investments celebrated as breathing new life in the city core are very much funded by the tax revenue generated by those responsible for gutting the downtown: big box stores. At the same time, however, the private development community has shied away from direct investment in downtown citing the cost of building and complicated permitting processes. This is about to change.

Beginning in the mid-1980's the city council built Percival Landing and the Washington Center in their efforts to kick start downtown development. In the 1990's the Farmer's Market was rebuilt and improvements to Heritage Park began. Now there are proposals circulating to build a convention center with public money and to "clean up" downtown by removing the homeless from sight. Building regulations and zoning have been changed to encourage development.

What is the grand goal of all this? The city claims they want to bring "market rate housing" to downtown which will attract upper income residents to the city core. Yes, the condominium kings are on the way. Typically, as has been demonstrated by centuries of urban development and re-development, the days of affordable housing in downtown are limited.

How Does Mayday Fit Into The Puzzle?

First of all, Mayday IS a part of this puzzle. Over the past two years it has become an event (or, rather, a series of events) in which the community has become visible to itself. Both those who support the goals and tactics of Mayday, and those who do not support -- or understand -- the goals and tactics cannot ignore one another on this holiday. There is something incredibly powerful -- and subversive -- about this process of mutual discovery.

The Mayday movement over the past two years has been so daring as to create contested space. Intersections normally overridden by cars have been called into question as community space. Every time we pass privately owned lots slated to be gas stations they have begun to ask us, "Is there not a greater community need we are failing to address in our system of land speculation and highest-bidder development?"

Mayday is a historical holiday commemorating the struggles and successes of average people. It is a traditional holiday commemorating re-birth and the amazing potential of spring. In this sense, the Mayday movement in Olympia has unveiled an alternative vision for the city -- one that exists right now in the hearts and heads of many people who live here.

During my city council campaign I remarked to a friend that Mayday was the one thing that could stop the development regime and those over whom they hold sway in city hall. Though, it will certainly take more than that, Mayday is building a movement in Olympia based on a new vision of this city, and in the process it is redefining altogether the terms of the debate. On the basis of this alone, the Mayday movement has, and will continue to be, successful in exposing and challenging the development regime in Olympia.

(Mayday, continued)

to mobilize tens of thousands of people in the streets of a major city to proclaim "THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!" as at the WTO demonstrations.

Words stronger than any I could write are engraved on the Haymarket Monument:

The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today.

Truly, history has a lot to teach us about the roots of our radicalism. When we remember that people were shot so we could have the 8 hour day; if we can acknowledge that homes with families in them were burned to the ground so we could have Saturday as part of the weekend, when we can recall 8 year old children maimed in industrial accidents marching in the streets protesting working conditions and child labor only to be beat down by the police and company thugs, we understand that our current condition cannot be taken for granted things could be a lot worse, and by extension, things could certainly be a lot better.

The sacrifices of so many people cannot be forgotten or we will end up fighting for those same gains all over again. And in actuality we do continue to struggle as we fight the trend to build more sweatshops and create more "Free Trade Zones" where labor and environmental rights are rendered unapplicable in efforts to maximize profits. We chose to stand up to Leviathan and say "No More!" "Labor is entitled to all it creates!" This is why we celebrate May Day.

Proposal for a Citizens' Referendum on the City's Laws for Downtown

Jeff Sowers

The Olympia City Council Making Decisions To Undo

What is a "referendum"?

A referendum is a public vote on a law that has been passed by the City Council. If a majority of citizens vote against the law, it is overturned. With a referendum the people have the last say, not the City Council. In the City of Olympia citizens have the power to call a referendum on the proposed laws for downtown by collecting about 5000 signatures on a legal petition in 30 days from the time of passage of the ordinances.

It is uncomfortable and embarrassing for representatives to have their decisions rejected by the people.

Why a referendum on the proposed laws for downtown?

The support for these proposed laws is coming primarily from the Olympia Downtown Association and its allies, a relatively tiny, yet wealthy part of the overall population that possess undue political influence. Yet there is good reason to believe that the majority of people in Olympia do not, or would not, support these ordinances. Many of us who went to the City sponsored "Community Discussion" were in groups where the overwhelming majority were against the proposed ordinances as a way of dealing with these issues. It is very likely that if these ordinances are put to a public vote they will be rejected.

It has been observed by many political scientists who have studied the use of the citizens' referendum power that merely the genuine prospect of a referendum by citizen activists is enough to get representatives to reject proposed laws, especially on issues where they are out-of-sync with the public. It is uncomfortable and embarrassing for representatives to have their decisions rejected by the people.

How do we do a referendum?

Citizens must collect about 5000 signatures (15% of the number of register voters at the time of the last general election) on a legally drafted referendum petition in 30 days from the time of passage of the ordinance. This requires a minimum of about 20 serious petitioners willing to spend about 6-8 hours a week collecting signatures for one month (figuring about 10 signatures per petitioning hour). Of course, the more people that help, the easier it is.

For help drafting a legal petition for a referendum on the proposed downtown ordinances contact me. Information on initiative and referendum powers of cities in the state of Washington is on the Web at: http://www.mrsc.org/textini.htm

The state laws governing the use of initiative and referendum powers in the City of Olympia are contained in RCW 35A.11.100 and RCW 35.17.240 through 35.17.360. (available online at http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/rcw.cfm#RCW_by_Title)

Note: State law distinguishes between powers granted to the legislative authority (city council) and the "municipal corporate entity" (voters). Courts have ruled that powers granted to the city council are not subject to referendum, while powers granted to the voters are. The proposed laws for downtown (limiting sale of fortified liquor, and restrictions on panhandling and car camping) are among the powers granted to the voters (and thus subject to the referendum power) under the following statutes: Authority for Local Regulatory Option on Sale of Liquor - Ch.35A.66 Authority to Regulate Health and Safety - Ch.35A.70

Television Program Documents That Downtown Is For Everyone

For 15 years the Olympia FOR has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence. (For information and referrals related to any of these topics, please call 491-9093.) The Olympia FOR program airs on Thurston Community Television (TCTV) for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. TCTV appears on channel 22 in some neighborhoods and 29 in other neighborhoods. A new program debuts at 9:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. It repeats every Thursday at 9:00 p.m. and every Monday at 1:30 p.m. until the next month's program debuts. This creates many opportunities to watch each program.

Downtown Is for Everyone

How we define a problem largely determines what kinds of solutions we produce. The current controversy about downtown Olympia is a perfect example.

The Olympia City Council is considering some ordinances to control homeless people and youths under the guise of helping the general public feel "safe" and provide a nicer climate for local businesses.

What is the problem? Different people see it differently. While some folks are leery of or annoyed by other kinds of folks, many people feel plenty safe downtown. Perhaps the problem is not an objective measure of safety, but rather our ability to accept diversity.

While some folks complain about the presence of homeless people, other people say that if enough low-income and transitional housing existed, those people would have homes. People who don't have anywhere to live are forced to live out their lives in public, while the rest of us can go home to drink, use bathrooms, sleep, and perform other life functions. So is the problem that people urinate in alleys, or that no public toilets are open after 5 p.m.?

Do cities and downtowns have functions beyond commercial ones? Who is the public – only middle-class customers or everybody?

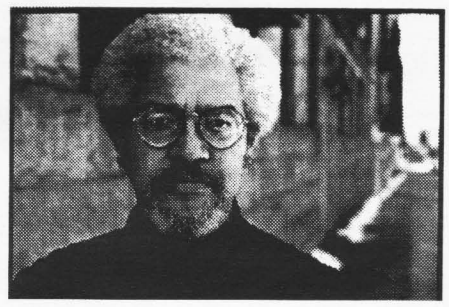
To identify and solve the real problems, we will need to hear the full range of perspectives and experiences. Then we'll need to collaborate to find solutions that will be workable for everyone. Our April TCTV program goes a long way toward these goals.

Four well-informed and articulate guests – Rick McVeigh, Phil Owen, Lisa Hayes, and Pat Tassoni – help us understand homelessness, human differences, downtown, and the meaning of community.

This program is powerful, insightful, and humane. Be sure to watch!

Along the Color Line

The Politics of Hip Hop



Manning Marable

The politics of hip hop culture took an important step forward recently with the Russell Simmons-founded Hip Hop Summit Action Network's hosting of the historic West Coast Hip-Hop Summit. Organized by Summit President Minister Benjamin Muhammad, hundreds of influential performance artists, music executives, grassroots activists, public leaders, and others gathered to address key issues and to establish a progressive political agenda.

Prominent participants included rappers Kurupt, DJ Quik, the Outlawz, Mack 10, Boo-Yaa Tribe, Mike Concepcion and the D.O.C., and radio personality/comedian Steve Harvey. Significantly, the keynote address was delivered by the leader of the Nation of Islam, Minister Louis Farrakhan, who also keynoted the first national hip-hop summit, staged last summer in New York City.

Hip Hop culture's early evolution was closely linked with the development of a series of political struggles and events which fundamentally shaped the harsh realities of black urban life.

This latest Hip-Hop Summit Action Network followed closely after two recent New York-based events connected with the effort to build a progressive hip hop political agenda. On Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 21), the first hip hop youth summit was held at York College in Queens. Featuring prominent hip hop artists such as Nas, Reverend Run of the legendary group Run-DMC, Wu-Tang Clan, rap activist Sister Souljah, and Fat Joe, the conference focused on building youth memberships and chapters across the country. Programs discussed included the "Read to Succeed Project," which is designed to bring hip hop artists into the public schools to emphasize literacy, and the anti-drug "Game Over" public service campaign.

On January 28, Russell Simmons engaged in a "public dialogue" with me, hosted by the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University before several hundred people. Since my participation in last year's national hip-hop summit, I have been meeting with both Simmons and Muhammad to develop a "hip-hop initiative," which could include a summer youth leadership training institute, and public conversations between rap artists and political activists around social justice issues such as the prison industrial complex, the death penalty, voter education, and music censorship. In our dialogue, Simmons affirmed his deep personal affection and respect for Minister Farrakhan, whom he described as "the conscience of black leadership." Simmons also criticized many mainstream African-American leaders for their failure to listen to the hip hop nation's concerns. "The civil rights leaders have the finances and infrastructure but don't do s-t," Simmons stated. "We are constantly working to connect the old civil rights leaders with creative young people."

As the founder and chairman of Rush Communications, a multimedia empire that includes Def Pictures, Def Jam recordings, Russell Simmons Television, Rush Art Management, on-line magazines Oneworld and 360hiphop, and the clothing company Phat Farm, Simmons's political views are increasingly carrying enormous weight. His intimate relationship with the NOI reflects, in part, the strong Islamic orientation of many hip hop artists. One of today's best and most "conscious" hip hop artists, Mos Def, opened his 1999 album "Black on Both Sides" with a Muslim prayer. Rap artists in the NOI include Ice Cube, K-Solo and Mc Ren. Even more hip hop artists have been influenced by the NOI offshoot, the Five Percent Nation-such as Wu Tang Clan, Busta Rhymes, and Poor Righteous Teachers. What also seems clear is that most of the liberal integrationist, middle class black establishment has largely refused for two decades to engage in a constructive political dialogue with the hip hop nation.

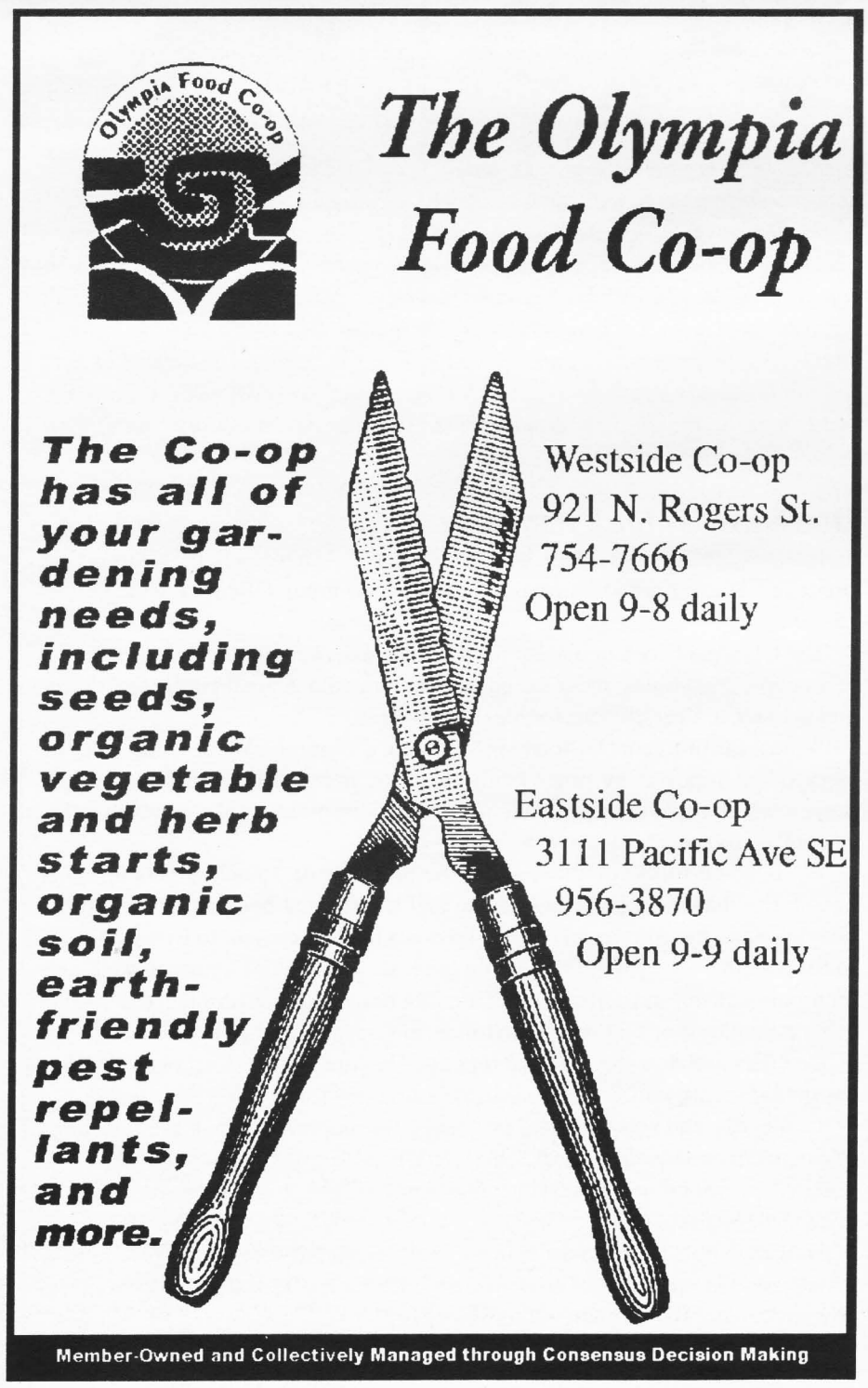
The Nation of Islam has understood for decades that black culture is directly related to black politics. To transform an oppressed community's political behavior, one must first begin with the reconstruction of both cultural and civic imagination. Malcolm X's greatest strength as a black leader was his ability to change how black people thought about themselves as "racial subjects." Revolutionary culture does the same thing. Through music and the power of art, we can imagine ourselves in exciting new ways, as makers of new history. The reluctance of the black bourgeoisie to come to terms with the music its own children listen to compromises its ability to advance a meaningful political agenda reflecting what the masses of our people see and feel in their daily lives. It speaks volumes about the cultural divisions and political stratification within the African-American community, as Russell Simmons noted in our recent public dialogues, that Run-DMC was on the cover of Rolling Stone and Vanity Fair before they were on Emerge or Ebony.

Hip Hop culture's early evolution was closely linked with the development of a series of political struggles and events which fundamentally shaped the harsh realities of black urban life. For example, hip hop historians sometimes cite the true origins of rap as an art form with the 1970 release of the self-titled album, "The Last Poets," based on the spoken word. "The Last Poets" was recorded and released during an intense period of rebellion closely coinciding with the murder of two African-American students and the wounding of 12 others by police at Jackson State University in Mississippi, the mass wave of ghetto rebellions during the summer of 1970, and the FBI's nationwide campaign to arrest and imprison prominent black activist Angela Davis. In New York City in 1973-74, Afrika Bambataa (Kevin Donovan) established the Zulu Nation, a collective of DJs, graffiti artists and breakers, with the stated political purpose of urban survival through cultural empowerment and peaceful social change. Hip Hop's first DJ Kool Herc (Clive Campbell) developed rap as a cultural mode of aesthetic expression.

Graffiti art exploded everywhere across the city-on subway cars, buses, and buildings-and soon is recognized as an original and creative art form. What helped to shape these cultural forms which later would become known as hip hop was the economic and political turmoil occurring in New York City during these years. The city government was lurching toward bankruptcy, as urban unemployment rates rose during the most severe economic recession since the end of World War II. This also marked the beginnings of more extreme forms of deadly violence among African-American and Hispanic young people. In 1977 even DJ Kool Herc was stabbed three times at his own party, reflecting in part escalating competition between crews, as well as the growth of violence to resolve disputes.

Yet the sites of greatest oppression, however, frequently can produce the strongest forces of resistance. The culture that the world one day would know as hip hop was born in that context of racial and class struggle.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City.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Book Review:

Rhythm and Business: The Political Economy of Black Music

Ron Jacobs

Edited by Norman Kelley 334 pps. Akashic Books, New York

This book originated with an article written by its editor, Norman Kelley, on the subject of Black American music and its domination by the mostly-white mega-corporations that run the entertainment world. Originally, Kelley, the author of the Nina Halligan private detective series and a former producer at WBAI-FM in New York City, intended on writing the entire book himself, but ultimately opted for a collection of articles by various musicians, critics and others in the world of African-American music. This was a good move. The pieces that appear are well-written and arranged so that they seque one into the other as smoothly as a well-crafted radio show. From Kelley's original article to pieces by the NAACP and former Public Enemy lyricist Chuck D, with many stops in between, this book makes a resoundingly convincing critique of the role of Black music in the history of the United States. Furthermore, it shifts the metaphor of the exploited musician as worker into the very realm of musician-as-worker, metaphor aside.

Most astute music listeners know, at least in a general way, that musicians, and Black musicians especially, have been routinely exploited by record producers. In the popular telling, this exploitation has most often taken the form of the blues singer being paid for a song and recording with a bottle of wine or a couple of bucks. As this book makes clear, this example is but the least sophisticated of the record industry's abuse of those who create its product. As the book also makes clear, the exploitation of the artists by the industry is not a historical fact, it is a present-day reality. The two features on rap music that include the thoughts of Rap Coalition head Wendy Day illustrate how little has changed in the way the major producers perceive African-American artists. Courtney Love's manifesto that closes the work makes it clear that the industry has little respect for other artists, either.

This book combines the story of racism in the record industry with an economic analysis of how art is abused in a capitalist society.

Rhythm & Business: The Political Economy of Black Music is more than an economic critique of the globalized music industry. It is also a history of African-American music in the twentieth century. From the early days when the blues were recorded on 78 rpm records to the most recent controversy over Napster and music transmission on the internet, the reader is provided with a rich and non-industry version of what really went down in the world of Black-created popular music. Stax Records or Motown, Ma Rainey or Diana Ross-the importance of so-called "race" record labels and their stars is portrayed here from a viewpoint one would never find in *Billboard, Rolling Stone*, or even the hip-hop journal Source.

This book combines the story of racism in the record industry with an economic analysis of how art is abused in a capitalist society. In so doing, Kelley has provided the scholar and the music listener with a history, an economic and cultural critique, and some proposals for a more hopeful future for the music created by Black Americans. As the writers remind us throughout the text, this is an important endeavor with consequences for our culture, since virtually all American musical forms have their roots in the music of Black America.

Ron Jacobs is a writer and library worker who lives in Burlington, VT.

Attention Activists:

OlyNetwork is here to serve you!

OlyNetwork is a local non-profit working to promote communication, networking, and accessibility within the South Sound social change community. We offer the following services that all activist groups and local social service organizations can take advantage of for FREE.

An weekly events calendar chocked full of all of our area's activist events which you can to read and add your own events to. This calendar is currently emailed to or read online by nearly 1000 people each week. It will very soon be posted around town too, on massive bulletin board "networking kiosks" that we have constructed. Call or email us with your events so we can let others know about them!

We are in the process of creating a Olympia community directory featuring profiles and contact information on all of our local activist and non-profit groups. It should be ready for release this Fall.

We provide free web hosting, free email addresses, and free listserv creation for local activist organizations. We can now offer free email addresses for individual activists too!

Our website features a local web links list a wide variety of other resources for activists. It will very shortly be featuring interactive news and discussion (like IndyMedia but better!)

WE NEED YOUR HELP OLYMPIA!: OlyNetwork is run by only six individuals – we need more volunteers and especially folks interested in a more serious commitment to the group if we are to maintain our current projects and to take on more (like organizing a community wide activist conference in Fall?!?). No experience is necessary and we are always open to new ideas and initiative.

Contact OlyNetwork anytime at olynetwork@olynetwork.org or our voice mail 357-9119. You can find much more information about us at www.olynetwork.org

(Clean Clothes, continued)

Meyer at 352-4858 or Don Lane at 866-7174 and check out the website at www.traditionsfairtrade.com.

Some Details of the Resolution

Section 1. Whenever possible, the City of Olympia will purchase items of apparel, footwear, textiles, and related products from responsible and ethical manufacturers who operate in accordance with established codes of corporate conduct regarding wages, workplace health and safety, forced labor, child labor, and freedom of association, as embodied in United Nations (U.N.) and International Labor Organization (I.L.O.) conventions.

Section 2. All requests for bid on such items shall include a statement of the City's policy regarding such purchases.

Section 3. The Purchasing Agent shall submit a series of questions to bidders on items of apparel, footwear, textiles, and related products designed to determine the manufacturing facilities in which the products under consideration are made, to ascertain working conditions at these manufacturing facilities, and to demonstrate that working conditions are of concern in the City's purchasing decisions.

Section 4. At the time of bid consideration by the Finance Committee, the City's Purchasing Agent shall provide to the Committee information received on the working conditions of the manufacturers from whom the goods may be received. The source of this information may be the manufacturer, the distributor from whom the goods are purchased, reputable national and international organizations, well documented media reports, and local groups with concerns in this area. The Finance Committee shall take this information into account in evaluating the bids received and making any bid awards.

Section 5. The Purchasing Department shall review its past purchases to determine which goods in these categories purchased by the City over the past year are manufactured or produced by firms that have violated international standards of labor rights or human rights as determined by a suitable and bona fide international body such as the International Labor Organization of the United Nations. Such review may also include pertinent information on the manufacturers of these goods from other reputable sources, including those outlined in Section 5 above. The Purchasing Department shall report its findings to the Finance Committee of the Olympia City Council by (date)

Section 6. This Resolve shall remain in effect until (date) Prior to that date, the Finance Committee shall review the effectiveness of this policy in assisting the City in purchasing covered goods from responsible and ethical manufacturers and any impact which this policy may have on the ability of the city to purchase such items at competitive prices.

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Delegation from Santo Tomás, Nicaragua Visiting Olympia Through April 24

WIP News Service

The 6th delegation from Santo Tomas, Nicaragua sponsored by the Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association (TSTSCA) will arrive on March 25 for a month-long visit to the Olympia area, highlighted by its participation in a community mural project which will be unveiled Saturday, April 20 at the closing ceremonies of the Procession of Species.

Participants from the 2001 Student Delegation to Santo Tomás have organized some amazing events for the whole community to enjoy. We invite you to participate in these events and get know the delegates. The purpose of the delegation is to strengthen the sister-community relationship, facilitate reward-

Yuri

ing intercultural experiences between the delegates and the local community, establish ties with other local organizations, and increase local awareness of the current reality of Nicaragua.

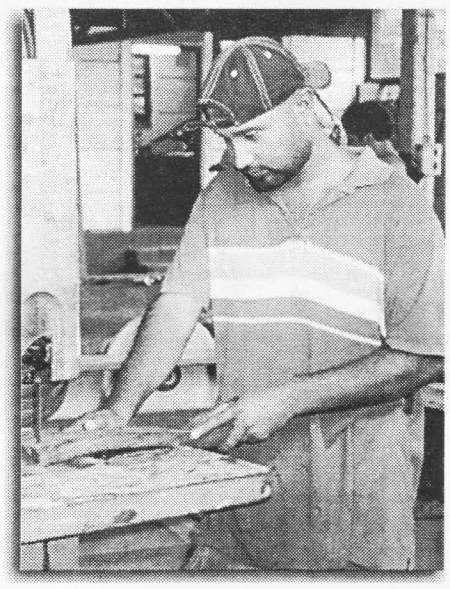
A welcoming celebration open to the public will be held on Friday, March 29 from 7-9 p.m. at the Procession of the Species workspace. The Citizens Band will be playing and it will be a night of dancing, desserts, and celebration for the arrival of our friends and for the beginning of the mural project. Please come and welcome our visitors.

The four delegates, Rosa Guerrero, 52, Modesto Narvaez, 38, Jairo Duarte, 27, and Yuri Lopez, 20, will be working with local artists and community organizations on a mural that will be installed at the Eastside Food Co-op. Through art and creativity we hope to express our friendship, love, and solidarity between Olympia and Santo Tomás. There will be lots of opportunities for the folks to join in the painting and get to know the delegates. Call the contacts to find out when they'll be working in the space.

Two of the delegates, Rosita and Yuri, are active organizers who work with low-income families and youth. Rosa is one of the directors of the *Comedor Infantil*, which is a free lunch program for 250 of the poorest kids in Santo Tomás. Yuri is a dynamic CDC Youth Organizer. She is interested in workshops on health, sexuality, child abuse and domestic violence. They will be sharing their experiences as community organizers and working with several local organizations, including Bread and Roses, the Sister Holly Community Garden, and schools in Olympia and Tacoma.

Modesto and Jairo coordinate the Woodworkers Employment and Education Project, a program that creates alternative fair trade employment opportunities for men and women in Santo Tomás. These talented woodcarvers will be spending a week at Chief Leschi School carving a totem pole with Native American students as well as meeting with local carvers and artists to share techniques and creative ideas. An exposé of their magnificent work will be on display and on sale at the Midnight Sun, April 6th from 2-6pm.

The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association, founded in 1988, works to foster sustained relationships and greater understanding between the peoples of Santo Tomás and Thurston County through the development of community ties, people-to-people exchanges, and personal friendships. Over the years we have had the honor of welcoming various teachers, students, a priest, and other community organizers. In addition to our direct support for social service projects in Santo Tomás, these delegations have been the heart of our ongoing relationship and cultural exchange with Santo Tomás. We are always delighted to reciprocate the hospitality shown to our community and college student delegations when we travel to Santo Tomás. There will be numerous opportunities for spending



Jairo

time with our friends. We hope you'll find the time to join us! Don't miss this opportunity to participate in this extremely rewarding relationship.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, March 29: Welcoming at the Old Madison School, 8th Ave and Central, Olympia, 7-9 p.m. (The Citizens Band will play and we will sign people up to participate on the community mural)

Saturday, April 6: Art Exposition of Nicaraguan woodcarvings at Midnight Sun on Columbia Ave. between State and 4th, 2-6 p.m.

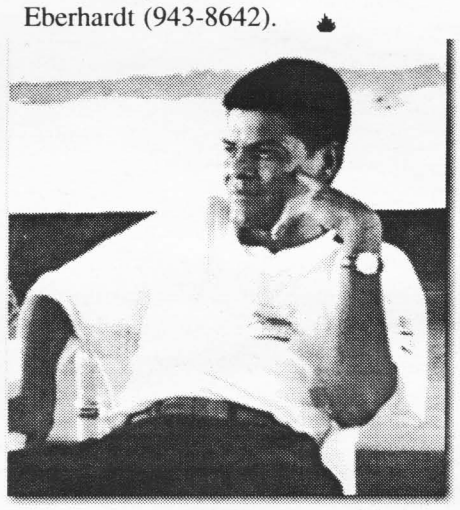
Friday, April 12: Exploration of Nicaraguan Culture and History: The Evergreen State College Longhouse 3 p.m. Nicaraguan cooking workshop 6 p.m. Community dinner 7 p.m. Evening entertainment

Saturday, April 20: Unveiling of the Mural at closing ceremonies of Procession of Species

Sunday, April 21: Farewell party, salsa dancing and fundraiser at K Records, 508 Legion, Olympia, 6 p.m.

For further information on the TSTSCA or the delegation, please contact Lindsay Parrish (570-0704) or Jean Eberhardt (943-8642).

Rosa



Modesto

Jose "Chencho" Alas to speak:

El Salvador's Peasant-Led Local Zone of Peace & Bottom-Up Sustainable Development

Tuesday, April 23
7:00-8:30 PM
Traditions Fair Trade
(5th Ave & Water St., Olympia)
***Live Music* by members of Latin Band "Los Calaveras"**
&
Wednesday, April 24
Noon-1 PM
Library Lobby at Evergreen State College, Olympia

Jose "Chencho" Alas is founder and Executive Director of Foundation for Self Sufficiency. The US-based Foundation for Self-Sufficiency is a Non-Governmental Organization supporting peasant-led efforts in 86 communities in rural El Salvador. The communities have defined themselves as a Local Zone of Peace. The sustainable development model they use is the opposite of international globalization of economies. It is a bottom-up model incorporating social and economic democracy where people at the base of society are organized and decide on how to meet needs. Efforts of the Salvadoran communities and the Foundation are: sustainable development and environmental restoration as well dispute resolution, disaster response and youth gang mediation.

Jose Alas is a historical figure in El Salvador. During the late 1960's and 1970's he helped develop and implement Liberation Theology and was an advisor to slain Archbishop Oscar Romero. Dr. Charles Clements in his book, *Witness to War* said: "The guns came after Alas was driven away. His legacy was the campesinos' dignity and self-esteem." Renny Golden in her book, *The Hour of the Poor, The Hour of Women-Salavoran Women Speak* described his treatment by the oligarchy: "Alas was abducted as he walked to the parking lot after his talk (on land reform). He was stripped, tortured, drugged, and (only because of an international outcry) abandoned still alive on a mountain outside the city."

Alas will invite people to join him on a US delegation to El Salvador this August 5-11. This tour will visit the Salvadoran Capital and learn of the struggles during the war as well as visit the rural communities and meet and observe the efforts of the peasants against poverty and structural injustice.

For more information contact Vicki Leonard at 360-357-5030 or Bob Zeigler at 360-570-0848.

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Ana makes a lovely vegan sauce!

More announcements

of the current international crisis. Olympia FOR provides signs or you may bring your own. Info: call 867-1731 or 491-9093. E-Mail: glen@olywa.net

15th Annual Bicycle Commuter Contest

Climate Solutions, a non-profit agency committed to practical solutions to global warming, will be gearing up for its 15th Annual Bicycle Commuter Contest this May. Every year, since 1988, the Bicycle Commuter Contest celebrates bicycle commuting by both encouraging newcomers to give it a try and recognizing regular bike commuters. Hundreds of free prizes will be up for grabs by participating cyclists as well as those that ride the most miles, or ride most consistently, during the month of May.

April 26/Friday - Wrenchers' Ball. 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. Olympia Transit Center, Olympia. Come register for the 15th Annual Bicycle Commuter Contest and get your bike tuned up for FREE. To help out or for more information call Climate Solutions at 360-352-1763 or visit www.climatesolutions.org.

May 4/Friday - Bicycle Commuter Contest Registration Deadline. Get your registration form for the Bicycle Commuter Contest to Climate Solutions, 610 E. 4th Ave., Olympia, by 5:00 P.M! E-mail us at bikecommute@climatesolutions.org.

Procession Doesn't Fight Apathy

Dear Editor:

I sent this letter to the Olympian. I am not surprised they did not publish it. Anyway, that newspaper should be in the middle of Wyoming. Here is my version, modified, of course. I do not want to alienate to the middle class, who pay so many taxes.

The Procession of the Species really sucks! It is an energy together for nothing. The day USA started to bomb Yugoslavia, while the bombs were destroying bridges, water plant-treatments, markets and nature, we were dancing on the streets. We ignored the pain and tears of other people in other geographies. Our selfishness and denial allowed us to dance on the streets. Without really wanting, we were celebrating the bombing, the massacre, the tragedy.

Now, we have been bombing one of the poorest of the poor country on earth. One billion dollars per day! Our taxes, our own taxes!

All of this is mainly done because our apathy. Apathy is much more harmful than racism. The concentration camps in USA, in the WW2, where so many American-Japanese lost their homes, farms, and freedom, was because of apathy. There was no resistance or marchs to oppose that current government.

Now, our taxes, again, are destroying the richest place in biodiversity on this planet, OUR ONLY HOME. I am talking about Colombia, where our government is making the preparations for a full war -- first was the excuse of the plantations of coca leaves, while the USA Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, legally consumes around twelve hundred pounds of coca leaves as tea in USA territory. Second, now the excuse is the "war on terror".

According to Cary Fowler and Pat Mooney (*Food, Politics, and the Loss of Genetic Diversity*), "probably two-thirds of all the species on earth (plants and animals) live only on the tropics—most in the tropical forests. The British Isles boast some 1,450 species of trees, shrubs and herbs—only 350 more than have been recorded on less than a square mile in Colombia. Colombia may have twice as many plant species as Ecuador. Ecuador has as many plants species as all of Central America. Central America is the size of France, but the tiny country of Panama contains as many plants species as all of Europe.....And the waters of the Amazon river system are home to nearly as many varieties of fish as are found in the Atlantic Ocean."

Allowing the USA and Colombia governments to fumigate this unique ecosystem, and start bombing this environment, is to sign the death penalty for all the living beings on earth, since all living beings are interdependent. The part affects the whole; it does not matter where we live. Borders are just arbitrary concepts to divide what cannot be divided, borders only segregate people, and racism is based on it.

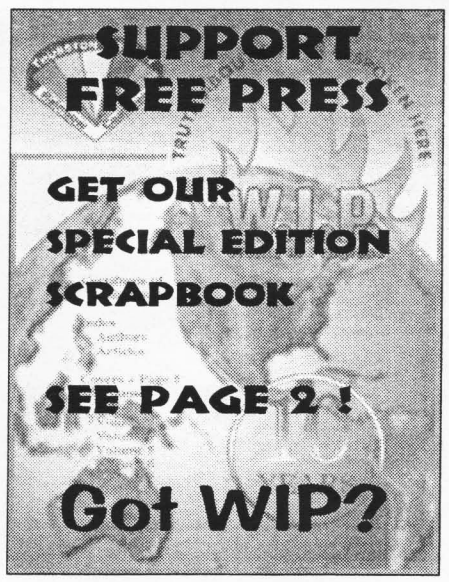
How many billions of dollars, our taxes, are going to cause all these atrocities? How many social and sustainable projects could we accomplish with all those economic resources? We could realy build harmony and hope on the whole Planet! All the people of this planet would love us! We would not need wars ever again. Wars would be obsolete and just a sad history of phony civilizations. But the reality is quite different.

Do we have the right to celebrate life while our bombings in Afghenistan have forced innocent civilians to eat grass perhaps with some barley flour on it? Are they celebrating life and diversity? Are the Colombian peasants dancing while the bombs and herbicides are falling on their food, water and land? And all paid with our taxes? Taxes that are taken from our work and life?

Wake up American sisters and brothers, wake up before is too late! Use your community energy and genuine love to create a beautiful planet, without mine or yours. But we have to stop the continuation of the world genocide. It is not too late yet. We have to work together for this. Celebrating denial, apathy, catharsis, selfishness, is not going to accomplish anything good, anything even lovable, worst earthy.

Have a beautiful and telluric spring all together, including me, a semi nomad and semi homeless person. But do not talk loudly, the directors of the parade are coming and we are not allowed to express ourselves with words, something inherent to my species. Just remember apathy does much more damage than racism.

With love,
Amando Barzola-Hidalgo



SAVE THIS DATE — SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Peace & Justice Conference

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace will hold an educational, organizing and networking anti-war, peace and justice conference on Sunday, April 28, 2002 at the Longhouse, The Evergreen State College, Olympia from 9am-6pm.

The planning for the conference has been happening for about two months but the date and location has now been firmed up to avoid conflicting with other events that will be happening in the spring. The title of the Conference is "Organizing for Peace and Justice". Details are still be worked out, but the general framework will be a public presentation from a very informed panel from 10:00am-11:30am (Speakers are being invited) and three periods of workshops during the day so that all participants can be involved in discussion and organizing. Many of the workshops will be repeated during the day. Day care will be provided and many issues will be discussed.

A major goal of the conference is to solidify and improve the organizing that is being done in the Pacific Northwest about the war (both domestic and international), especially along the I-5 corridor from Vancouver, B.C. to Portland, OR (other are invited also). All those who are reading this should inform their friends and progressive contacts within a day's drive of Olympia about this conference. A successful conference will improve the quality of our work over the next year.

The conference will be sponsored by OMJP, the academic programs "Making A Difference: Doing Social Change", "Alternatives to Capitalism" and other community groups, programs, and student groups TBA.

Total Liberation Project

April 19- Mayday 2002
The Evergreen State College

The Total Liberation Project is being organized by dozens of student groups and activists at the Evergreen State College with the goal of exploring a wide range of more holistic visions of resistance and liberation; visions that do not privilege any particular type of oppression over any other, yet which still successfully respect and further the autonomy of all movements within a greater context of solidarity.

For example, we want to move beyond both the orthodox Marxist idea that class society is the basis of all other oppression, as well as the anarchist idea that it is the state that is the basis of all other oppressions. Likewise we want to transcend the somewhat newer ideas of first and second-wave feminism that gender is the basis or the idea that racism is what is at the basis of all other oppressions.

Rather we want to conceptualize and put into practice visions and theories that say that ALL of these types of oppression are of central importance, and that these are really just the beginning of an understanding of how our truly multifaceted world really works.

Aside from the theoretical underpinnings of which we are constituted, there are other major differences between the Total Liberation Project and what one would normally think of as a typical activist conference. One is that we intend this to be more than just a conference bound by time constraints; we intend to carry this project out beyond April 2002 through the proliferation of the website and the publishing of a rather large pamphlet by the same name. Both of these will serve as portals to a wide range of radically holistic theories, and will include the text from presenters' speeches and debates that occur during the month of April.

Another major difference is in how we have organized: the policy of Total Liberation has been to do everything we can to have an equal number of white women, women of color, white men and men of color both presenting the theoretical lectures as well as doing the practical workshops.

The reasons for this should be obvious: we want our means to be in line with the ends we propose. At the same time, we fully recognize that even this small effort is problematic as it does not account for a balance between all the many types (possibly thousands) of oppression. However, we feel that even by taking this small step we are going far beyond what many conferences that purport to be about "liberation" have done in the past.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday A19
12) Todd May on Poststructuralist Anarchism and Contingent Holism; TESC
4) Susan Parenti on theater, feminism and liberation at TESC
Saturday A20
2) GR Teach-in at Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) with Special Guests the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) the Anti-Capitalist Convergence (le CLAC) and Lorenzo Komboa Ervin.
4) Reclaim the Streets Action Against the World Bank / IMF; at SCCC
6) Anti-Capitalist Convergence March Against the World Bank / IMF; at SCCC
Sunday A21
12-6) All-Day Holistic Anti-oppression Workshop with Leticia Nieto; TESC
Monday A22
12) Radical theories of education at TESC
8-10) Michael Moore on George W. Bush and "Stupid White Men" at Evergreen CRC (almost confirmed).
Tuesday A23
12) Linda Hogan on the Sacred Hoop and indigenous worldviews of liberation at TESC (unconfirmed)
7) Dan Chodorkoff on the theory of Social Ecology at TESC
Wednesday A24
12) Arthur Miller on bridging environmental, indigenous and working class movements at TESC
6) Elizabeth Martinez on "Where is the Color in the Antiglobalization Movement Today?" at TESC
Thursday A25
12) Lorenzo Kombon Ervin on anarchism and people of color at the TESC
7) Michael Albert on Complimentary Holism at TESC
9) Hardcore and Hip-Hop Show: Vitamin X, Merciful Allah, November Group and Higher Ground of Struggle at TESC (unconfirmed).
Friday A26
12-1:30) Aragorn Moser at TESC Library Lobby
6-8) John Zerzan at TESCLibrary Lobby
8-11) Anarchist "Smackdown" Debate! Featuring the Number 3 Collective, Killing King Abacus (unconfirmed), John Zerzan, Arthur Miller, Aragorn Moser and more at TESC Lecture Hall 1
11-2) Party at the Beach House
Saturday A27
9-10:15) Womyn's self-defense by FIST at TESC
10:15-11:30) Police Brutality and Homelessness by Pat Tassoni at TESC
12-1:15) Legal Self-Defense by the Midnight Legal Collective at TESC
1:15-2:30) Street Self-Defense by Gregory C. Lewis at TESC
3:30 - 4:45) Building a nationwide anarchist organization by No. 3 Collective at TESC
5 - 6:15) Organizing in communities of color by L. Ervin at TESC
5-10) Breakdancing Competition (ASIA) at the TESC Library Lobby
Sunday A28
OMJP Conference (see announcement same page)
Monday A29
8-10) Every Woman's Delegation at the TESC Library Lobby
Tuesday A30
7-9) Linda Evans on the Prison-Industrial Complex at the TESC
Wednesday M1
12) Mayday Celebration and Reclaim the Streets Action in Olympia with the Infernal Noise Brigade, etc

Contact Us!

Total Liberation Project
c/o Evergreen Political Information Center
Evergreen State College Olympia, Washington 98502
(360)867-6144 * ringfingers@yahoo.com

Come to one of our meetings: we are meeting every Monday from 6:30-8 PM at Clancy's Pub downtown and every Thursday from 4:30-5:30 pm at TESC CAB 320 in Olympia.

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

APRIL 2002

FREE

page one **Rants In Their Pants**
Challenging Olympia's Development Regime

Rants In Olympia's Pants & The Disappearing Bus Stop — 1

Book Review **Globalization from Below** — 5

Brief History of Mayday — 6

Citizen Referendum Power to Change New Downtown Laws — 7

Along the Color Line **The Politics of Hip Hop** — 8

Book Review: **Rhythm and Business** — 9

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
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